

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a memory for storage of files and a main filesystem for accessing said files, the improvement of adding a custom filesystem, said custom filesystem comprising:  
a custom hierarchical structure of files and folders, providing access to selected software applications based on a set of attributes for said computer system;~~and~~  
a set of links between said custom hierarchical structure of files and folders, and the locations of corresponding real files in said main ~~file-system~~filesystem; ~~and~~  
said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem being positioned to have priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.
2. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said custom hierarchical structure is generated by determining which of said files in said main filesystem should be viewed.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a custom filesystem for a computer system having a main filesystem, comprising the steps of:  
generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system;  
selecting required software applications from available software applications in accordance with said attributes;  
linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; and  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file-system~~filesystem,  
in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said attributes for said computer system include static characteristics.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said static characteristics include a microprocessor model and an operating system platform.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said attributes for said computer system include dynamic characteristics.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said dynamic characteristics include preferences regarding accessible software applications and versions of said software applications.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said step of responding comprises the steps of:

for each available software application, determining whether said computer system

requires said software application, and if so:

querying said system regarding a desired version of said software application; and

adding said desired version of said software application to said custom filesystem.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said dynamic characteristics include:

the location of the package repositories;

the packages to include;

the root of the custom ~~file system~~filesystem; and

the spill directory root.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said attributes include:

a Root directory to take over ~~{efsroot}~~;  
a Directory to copy changed (spilled) files to ~~{spillroot}~~;  
a Directory ~~locations~~ (base root location for the packages); and  
a Packages to read and customize.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said linking is symbolic linking.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, comprising the step of:  
storing an image of the current custom ~~file-system~~filesystem which may be re-generated, allowing roll-back.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, comprising the step of:  
responding to a request to roll-back by replacing said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem with said image of said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of filesystem management comprising the steps of:  
determining which files a computer system will see based on system attributes;  
identifying filenames representing said files said computer system will see; ~~and~~  
generating links between said filenames and real software locations of said files on a main filesystem, that said computer system will see; and  
said identified filenames and links comprising a custom filesystem; and  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file-system~~filesystem,  
in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a custom filesystem for a computer system, comprising the steps of:  
generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system in a system configuration file;  
processing said system configuration file;  
reading all directories in a main ~~file-system~~filesystem to generate a search path;  
traversing said search path and for each available software application, determining whether said system requires said software application, and if so:  
querying said system regarding a desired version of said software application;~~and~~  
adding said desired version of said software application to said custom filesystem;  
and  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file-system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

16. (Currently Amended) A custom filesystem comprising:  
means for generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system;  
means for selecting required software applications from available software applications in a main filesystem, in accordance with said attributes;  
means for linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; and  
means for positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of operation for a custom filesystem on a computer system having a main filesystem, said method comprising the steps of:  
loading a system configuration file containing attributes of said computer system;  
responding to receipt of a request to perform an operation by:

accessing said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem, said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem having been generated ahead of time by performing the steps of:  
generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system;  
selecting required software applications from available software applications in accordance with said attributes;  
linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; ~~and~~  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem;  
re-directing said requested operation to a corresponding real file location; and  
performing said requested operation with respect to said real file.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of loading packages onto custom pathname tree, subsequent to said step of loading a system configuration file.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said system configuration file comprises static and dynamic system characteristics of said system.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of responding to a request from the system by:

responding to a targeted file on the package ~~file-system~~filesystem being invalid by sending an error message to said end system.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of responding to a request from the system by:

responding to the state of said targeted file not being known by updating the state of said targeted file.

22. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of: responding to a command which requires modification of a file by copying said file to a spill directory tree.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of responding to a request from the system by:  
responding to said file having been spilled by requiring request spilled location.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of operation for a custom filesystem on a computer system having a main filesystem, said method comprising the steps of: loading a system configuration file containing attributes of said computer system; loading packages onto a custom pathname tree; responding to a request from the system by:

accessing said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem, said custom ~~file-system~~filesystem having been generated ahead of time by performing the steps of:  
generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system;  
selecting required software applications from available software applications in accordance with said attributes;  
linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem;~~and~~  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem;  
responding to a targeted file on the package ~~file-system~~filesystem being invalid by sending an error message to said end system;  
responding to the state of said targeted file not being known by updating the state of said targeted file;

responding to said file having been spilled by ~~requiring~~redirecting said request to a spilled location;

responding to said request being a read request by:

- re-directing said read request to a corresponding “real” file location;~~and~~
- performing said read ~~operation~~request;

responding to said request being a write request by:

- marking said target file in said main root directory;
- creating said spillroot direction;~~and~~
- copying said target file to said spill root location; and

responding to said request being a stat request by accessing meta-data from package file location as required.

25. (Currently Amended) A carrier signal incorporating software code executable to perform the method steps of:

- generating and storing a file of attributes for ~~said~~ a computer system;
- selecting required software applications from available software applications on a main filesystem, in accordance with said attributes;
- linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; and
- positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory medium for storing software code executable to perform the method steps of:

- generating and storing a file of attributes for ~~said~~ a computer system;
- selecting required software applications from available software applications on a main filesystem, in accordance with said attributes;
- linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; and

positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file system~~filesystem,  
in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on said custom  
filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of file management comprising the steps of:  
displaying a custom filesystem in which filenames are linked to real software file  
locations in accordance with a computer system's attributes;  
said custom ~~file system~~filesystem having been generated ahead of time by performing the  
steps of:  
generating and storing a file of attributes for said computer system;  
selecting required software applications from available software applications on a  
main filesystem, in accordance with said attributes;  
linking said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; ~~and~~  
positioning said custom filesystem to take priority over said main ~~file~~  
~~system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests  
on said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main  
filesystem; and  
responding to an input of an instruction with respect to said customized ~~file~~  
~~system~~filesystem by:  
re-directing said instruction to said real software file location.



28. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:  
a central processing unit (CPU);  
an input/output unit; and  
a memory;  
said CPU being controlled by an operating system;  
said operating system including a main ~~file system~~filesystem for organizing and  
controlling access to files located on said memory, and a custom ~~file~~  
~~system~~filesystem;  
said custom ~~file system~~filesystem being operable to:  
generate and store a file of attributes for said computer system;  
select required software applications from available software applications in  
accordance with said attributes;~~and~~  
link said selected software applications to said custom filesystem; and  
said custom filesystem being positioned to take priority over said main ~~file~~  
~~system~~filesystem, in that a process manager will attempt to address requests on  
said custom filesystem prior to placing said requests on said main filesystem.